

The Legislature and the Extra Session. Do the people desire an extra session of this Legislature? In all practical ways they have expressed themselves against adjourned sessions. The last one was generally condemned by both parties especially by the Republicans. Is there any public necessity that requires it? If there is, the measures which constitute the necessity, and which can not be passed at the present session, can, and should be pointed out. But there has been no pretense of any specific legislation that required another session, and as members would naturally attempt to protect themselves in such a radical change in their views on this question, by offering substantial reasons, if there were any, we are justified in concluding that none could be specified.

But the adjourned session has been chiefly excused on the ground that the people are in favor of annual sessions. Then the people have a singular way of showing it. Twice the question has been submitted to their vote, and they were too indifferent to vote on either side. But even if they were in favor of annual sessions, does that establish that they are in favor of having this Legislature annually? It is argued in the Legislature that if the Constitution had not provided that those who did not vote on its amendments, should be counted against them, the question of annual sessions would have carried at the popular election; but as it was lost from the indifference of the people on the question, they conclude that the people are in favor of annual sessions. This legislative logic is actually current at the State capital.

Others have argued that the question of annual sessions would have carried, if they had been connected with annual elections; but as the people were unwilling to have one Legislature fastened upon them for two sessions, they voted this Legislature upon them for another session. This is another specimen of the annual session argument. It has also been offered to show a necessity, that during the only period when the State had not an annual session, the defection of Breslin occurred. If it did, a regular and an extra session failed to discover it, though they investigated it to the best of their ability. It is said, too, that the Treasury is empty, therefore another session is required to take care of the finances of the State. The State Treasury is prostrated by the depletion of the last extra session; but for that it would have met the necessary expenditures; therefore, it is to be treated, homeopathically, to the hair of the same dog.

What can an extra session of the Legislature do to relieve the finances of the State? The result of the extra session of the Democratic Legislature will show. What session appropriated about \$80,000 to the Lewistown Reservoir, in which was included about \$24,000 which the treasury investigation had reported as having been taken out of the Treasury; and for that report, which they themselves ordered and dishonored, they appropriated over \$22,000. They paid about \$5,000 on an old claim of Samuel Medary's which the Democratic Auditor at the time rejected as illegal. The expenses of the extra session itself, including the other printing, were probably \$60,000. This and such of their appropriations as were entirely unnecessary and unjustifiable will account for the deficiency in the Treasury. And now the Republican Legislature is going to restore the State finances by a similar depletion. "Bleeding and warm water" is the only treatment. After having provided the levy, the Legislature can do nothing for the Treasury but drain it. All it wants is repose and nursing.

The question of an extra session has had a damaging effect on the usefulness of this session. The majority of the members were anxious for it from the first, and this resulted in a willingness to create a necessity for it; or at least the consequence of an extra session furnished an abiding consolation for the inefficiency of this. The question mixed itself up with other matters of legislation, and members found it difficult to carry their party measures without modifying their opposition to another session. The question is potent for mischief, and so it always will be, so long as it is an open question for every new Legislature.

But is there a necessity for an extra session? Certainly there is, to repeal the legislation of this. But if we judge of the necessity by what has been accomplished in the past, there is none. Members naturally come together under the delusion that the State is to be saved and made by legislation. Every Legislature is going to give the world a turn ahead, and every member is pregnant with bills which are to reform the State, and, especially, distinguish himself. The idea is false at bottom, consequently, every Legislature is a failure, in public estimation, because it promised great things and performed little; in its own, because it has disappointed itself. The State is suffering from too much legislation; everybody admits, yet a new Legislature comes together and introduces five or six hundred bills, and so, unfortunately, it can pass but the lesser fraction of them, it holds an extra session and introduces five or six hundred more, and passes in proportion. Probably, on an average, three-quarters of these should be at once repealed.

But little legislation is required, and with the crude ideas of government that prevail in the legislature, but little is safe. There is apparently but little idea that there is any fundamental principle in government, by which measures can be tried, but most of the measures are expedients, to fit some particular case, and the number, and variety of motive of these is inconceivable to one who has not paid close attention to legislation. The act to place the municipal government of this city where it cannot be easily reached by the people is a specimen. Men will talk of the people being supreme in this government, and then create an appointing power as far from their control as possible; and in its distance consists its sole merit.

The Legislature can pass but few acts which are important. A very few measures must decide its character and usefulness. One such as this, so utterly defenseless in principle, and so mischievous in practice, should condemn any Legislature. There was but little for this Legislature to do. Additional guards to the treasury, and some means to save the State from the excess of expenditure consequent upon the State management of the canals were the chief demands; but nothing has been done for these, and its inefficiency is the chief reason for another session of the same Legislature. The

Legislature is a failure that will hardly be denied; so was the last; its own friends admitted it; so was the mixed Republican Legislature of 1890, so will the next one be. Yet there are many good men in the present Legislature capable of earnest and honest men, but the average governs its character and usefulness.

Did the Negroes Run Away, or Did They Not Run Away? That is the question; the negroes being those of the Hon. Edward Bates, of Missouri. Having given currency to a rumor upon this point adverse to the claim of emancipation philanthropy set up for that gentleman, the Gazette takes us up, and puts us down upon the plea that there is no such journal in St. Louis as the Post, the one named in our article, upon the authority of the New York Tribune; and that therefore the story is untrue. The St. Louis Bates journals, in the place of giving anything of their own upon the subject, copy the Gazette's paragraph, which seems to throw a doubt upon the verity of the case. In the mean time we find light in the Evansville Enquirer, which, giving the Gazette's article, comments as follows: "We presume the Cincinnati Press referred to the St. Louis Bulletin instead of the Post. The Bulletin is a respectable paper of opposition tendencies, and made the statement that Mr. Bates' negroes ran away from him, and after trying in vain to recover them, his friends gave out that he had emancipated them. This statement has not been disputed by either of the St. Louis papers, in Mr. Bates' interest, that we are aware of, and is, no doubt, true, the Cincinnati Gazette to the contrary notwithstanding."

Religious "Status" of Hon. Edward Bates. As everything that relates to the character, standing and qualities of gentlemen who seek to become Presidents of the United States is important, the following from a correspondence of the N. Y. Post, touching the religious habits of Mr. Bates, will be a great comfort to tender consciences: "He is a member of the Old School Presbyterian Church, and has always been a regular attendant upon the church services, but I think I have never known him to take any part in the week-day services of the church he attends, and I suppose this may be attributed to his indisposition to appear in public outside of his strict professional duties as a lawyer."

To guard against all accidents, the writer should have certified whether or not there be another gentleman of the same name at St. Louis, or somewhere in the vicinity, a lawyer, unmarried, and so forth, who has some time been connected with the Catholic denomination. The want of this precaution, will be remembered, was the occasion of great trouble in the Fremont campaign.

As oration delivered before the Triennial Convention of the Alpha Delta Phi, at Miami University, Oxford, Ohio, July 5, 1890, by George E. Pugh, has been printed at Washington by Lemuel Towers. The motto is a quotation from Milton: "I call, therefore, a complete and generous education that which fits a man to perform justly, skillfully, and magnanimously, all the offices, both private and public, of peace and war." The oration is in praise of education, and of true and false modes for the acquisition of learning, and contains many just sentiments expressed in apt and forcible language.

Like many gentlemen who graduate, however, Mr. Pugh seems to forget that it is not the mere style of education that forms the people, but it is the people who form the style of education. The formality training of the Egyptians was in perfect conformity with the indurability of the Egyptian character. We utter a great many fine sentiments about mental training and discipline as superior to mere acquisition, but being a people enlisted in a headlong material progress, our education is practically as mechanical as ourselves, and is likely so to continue.

The Catholic Telegraph pitches into the Enquirer, with an unusually liberal expenditure of vocabulary severity, in consideration of an article which recently appeared in the latter journal, upon the subject of Marriage and Divorce. From the remarks indulged in, we should be inclined to believe that the editors of the Telegraph were a pair of honest, married gentlemen, who had, for many years, enjoyed unusual happiness in their domestic relations. Being indebted to them ourselves for a complement very judiciously bestowed, we do not know that we can make a better return than by hoping that they and their respective families are in an excellent state of health and preservation.

There is to be an "irrepressible conflict" in New York between two operative impresarios, to commence on Easter Monday. Ullman-Strakosky will open in Irving Place and Maretzke in the Academy of Music. The former has a "Patti," with the probability of Freehold while the latter has secured a star in the person of Madame Fabry, who comes with a high reputation. The Herald remarks that as Maretzke and Ullman are of fond of quarrelling as any Irishman at a fair, and are never so happy as when they are in a row, it seems very probable that hostilities will be commenced.

If we are to judge by an article in yesterday's Enquirer, the faith of the editor of that journal in the faith of the statement, "In Adam's fall," has become considerably mixed. It would not be a bad idea, before he lapses further, for the Gazette to give him a word of sound doctrine in season. We can hardly afford to let go these fundamental articles, and if our neighbor on the right will not make an effort for their preservation, we must try to do it ourselves.

It is Italy, in all the processes of aggregation and disintegration have alternated. No sooner are a few provinces united under one government, and symptoms of a coming nationality begin to make their appearance, than the old factional spirit of the people is awakened, and disorders within advance and keep pace with the accretions from without. Such seems destined to be the fate of Sardinia, whose actual weakness and anarchy will probably become intense with her increase in territorial magnitude.

"President Fillmore, it is said, earnestly advises a union of the whole Opposition, in order to defeat the Democracy."—Mayville Eagle. And if President Fillmore were asked, he would probably express the private opinion that the one, of all others, best calculated to unite the Opposition would be a gentleman of about his own size, weight, age and complexion.

SPEAKING of agricultural prospects for the coming season, the Mayville Eagle announces that there are no signs of a failure of the musquitto crop as yet perceptible.

Mexico and Mr. Cox. We are indebted to Hon. S. S. Cox, for a copy of the Washington Globe containing his speech—perhaps we should say great speech—upon Mexican affairs. Mr. Cox is in favor of speedy and efficient intervention. With an abundance of tropes and figures—like edge-tools dangerous in careless hands—he describes the condition of the "latter republic," and sets forth our obligations in the premises.

"Such is the present condition of Mexico, and such is our interest in it, that we cannot be either idle or indifferent to its fate. It is one of those cases of great public distress, which lies at our very door. We cannot avoid seeing it. It is in our path as an obstruction to our progress, and a menace to our peace. Self interest, if not republican sympathy, demands from us for Mexico our quickest heart throbs, and our most active intervention."

Mr. Boyce—Mexico is our sick man. Mr. Cox—Yes, he is to America what Turkey is to Europe. If he be not healed of her wounds and set upright on her progressive path, she must become not only the sick man, but the dead man, whose very corpse will arrest our steps, and pollute our own political system. To save her, she must be inoculated with American energy. To save her—alas! is she not dead already, whose cold glass and emeralds, trinkets, tossed on the wild wave of anarchy, endanger the safety of her neighbors?

With submission; this is twaddle—very elegant, very forcible, and very foolish. As literature—whose mission is to create—it is well enough; as politics, statesmanship, whose business is with things as they are, nothing could be poorer. How much, we might ask Mr. Cox, has Turkey, the European invalid, profited by European intervention? As much probably as Mexico will profit by the recent seizure—Heaven knows why—her vessels by one of our national ships. Just as apt to the real state of the case are the rest of his post-mortem illustrations. The talk about inoculating our own system with her complaints, is the wisdom of a school-boy bent on riding his simile to death. The true policy for the United States is to take care of its own affairs. Congress and the administration have enough of that to do, without instituting Quixotic expeditions to Mexico or anywhere else. Let us look to the barbarian at home; and let the foreign dead bury their dead in their own way.

It is supposed that the thing which Vice-Presidents of the United States most earnestly desire and most fervently pray for, is that the President will be mercifully spared to serve out the full length of his term. Postoffices have recently been established in Kentucky, at Horse Cave, Turkey Foot and Black Lick. What's in a name?

The Butchery of the Crew of the New York Myster—Further Disclosures. The mystery attending the late tragedy on board the New York Myster—see E. J. Johnson, mentioned in our issue of the 19th inst., is clearing up, and the police here feel sanguine of being able to effect the arrest of the perpetrator of the murders at an early hour. It is ascertained that the late murder description of one of the crew of the ill-fated sloop came ashore at Staten Island, on Wednesday morning, in a small boat, and that he related that he had been a few hours previously in coming in collision with a schooner. He further stated that the captain of the sloop had been killed by the collision, and that he was the only one on board who had time to escape, which he did by getting into the yawl boat. It is considered almost certain that the man who was killed by the yawl boat, and the one who was killed by the schooner, were the same man, and that he was the perpetrator of the murders at an early hour. 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